

**Developmental Disabilities Council
Public Policy Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
November 15, 2007**

Present: Leo Finnigan (chair), George Adams, Janet Adams (DDD), Kelly Boston (DVR), Sherrie Brown (UCEDD), Lori Flood, Stan Fukui, Shawn Latham, David Lord (DRW), Patty McDonald (ADSA), Carol Miller

Absent: Bob Doyle

Staff: Donna Patrick, David Maltman, Brian Dahl

Call to Order/Adjustment of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Leo called the meeting to order. There were no adjustments to the agenda. Sherrie pointed out that there should be two "D"s in UCEDD in the minutes.

MOTION: Approve the July committee minutes as corrected. Unanimous.

Overview of Committee Work

The group reviewed the Committee's charter and Big Picture Work Plan.

This was followed by a discussion of the 2008 Disabilities Legislative Reception. There are some people who have accessibility concerns with the Legislative Building. David will talk with them. There are people who like having the reception in the Legislative Building because of the fact that it is the state capitol, which is majestic, and it is convenient for legislators, so there is a good turnout. That is offset by the fact that the space is not very user friendly for some people with disabilities and that aspect is not likely to change (remodeling has already happened). It's an ongoing discussion.

Legislative Session Issues / Proposals

The committee received issue papers on and discussed the following legislative issues:

- Worker Training Workgroup / recommendations
- DD Children's Behavioral Crisis Supports proposal
- DD Community Land Trust (Dan Thompson Memorial Trust)
- Disability History Month
- Autism Task Force / insurance coverage of interventions
- ADA Coordinator for the Courts
- Employment and Day Activities / Life Long Learning bill

- DD Endowment (Life Opportunities Trust)
- Infant Toddler Equity Act

Additionally, the group discussed the travesty of education services being provided in RHCs, the upcoming guardianship public meeting, the assaults at Rainier School and possible influences on the 2008 session.

Federal Issues

David reviewed action items at the federal level:

- The federal government is acting under continuing resolution because none of the fiscal year '08 Appropriations bills has passed.
- President Bush vetoed the bill funding the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. An increase for DD Councils was in the bill.
- Reauthorizing legislation for DD Councils, Protection and Advocacy Systems and DD University Affiliated Programs has been introduced.
- The Congress has passed and the President is expected to veto legislation to expand health care programs for children (SCHIP).
- A bill to strengthen the Americans with Disabilities Act is starting the process.

- Related bills that are in the process are: prohibiting discrimination in insurance on the basis of genetic information, increased wages for direct support professionals and demonstration programs for people with autism.
- Leo and David have been trying to generate interest in amending Social Security laws to increase the eligibility limits on income and resources. Rep. McDermott and Rep. Reichert are interested.

Legislative Conference Call

The legislative conference calls, to discuss legislative issues with staff, will be held on Thursdays at 4:30 pm. Information will be distributed to all Council members.

Legislative Reception/Briefing

The all disabilities legislative reception will be Wednesday, January 16, 2008 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on the third floor area of the Legislative Building. There will be a DD issues briefing from 3:30 - 5:00 in the Columbia Room, first floor of the Legislative Building.

It was requested that the three hosting organizations (DDC, Governor's Committee and Parkview

Services) develop an agenda of common issues for the reception.

Council Report

Legislative issues

Legislative conference call

Leo asked that any committee member ideas/suggestions for the committee agenda be emailed to him and to Donna.

Next Meeting Agenda

Legislative and public policy issues

Report on ACC

The meeting was adjourned.